

## Mission Statement

St. Paul United Methodist Church exists to honor God by making more disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

### Church Ministry Staff

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# S t . P a u l

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 2, 2025

8:30 a.m.

### Welcome and Announcements:

**Prelude**

**Amazing Grace**

**arr Pardini**

### \*Call to Worship:

Leader: Children of God, we come to worship today with expectations: how we expect to feel, what we expect to experience, songs we expect to sing, or prayers we expect to pray. We find comfort in the familiar.

**Unison: We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here.**

Leader: Sometimes what feels familiar grows stale. We stop noticing the power of our prayers. We hear but don't listen to the Word. We sing without letting the music seep into our hearts. Yet, God is still here, moving and working among us.

**Unison: We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here.**

Leader: We may meet God in a familiar voice speaking a hard word, in a song we love that pierces our hearts, in a prayer that we receive in a new way. Because God is here, moving and working among us.

**Unison: We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here.**

Leader: Children of God, come! Let us worship, ready to embrace God's Word already at work among us, even when we are challenged to recognize God in the familiar and unfamiliar alike.

**Unison: We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### \*Opening Prayer:

Leader: Together let us pray.

**Unison: In a cynical and despairing world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your hope. In a violent and angry world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your peace. In a dismissive**

and disinterested world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your compassion. In a lonely and inhospitable world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your love. In a grieving and weeping world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your joy. May we be so captivated by your hope, O God, that we cannot help but to whisper, to sing, and to enact, the message of your reign which is always coming into our world; And may our quietly prophetic lives be channels of your restoring grace wherever we may go. Amen.

**\*Opening Hymn: Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak Page 463**  
Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of thy tone; as thou hast sought, so let me seek thine erring children lost and lone.

O strengthen me, that while I stand firm on the rock, and strong in thee, I may stretch out a loving hand to wrestlers with the troubled sea.

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious things thou dost impart; and wing my words, that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.

O fill me with thy fullness, lord, until my very heart o'erflow in kindling thought and glowing word, thy love to tell, thy praise to show.

O use me, Lord, use even me, just as thou wilt, and when, and where, until thy blessed face I see, thy rest, thy joy, thy glory share.

**The First Lesson: Jeremiah 1: 4-10**

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God!

People: Thanks be to God!

**Choir Anthem: Come Eat This Bread Lau**

**\*Gospel Lesson: Luke 4: 21-30**

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

People: Thanks be to God!

**\*Hymn: Precious Lord, Take My Hand Page 474**  
Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:

**Refrain**

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near, when my life is almost gone, hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall: (Refrain)

When the darkness appears and the night draws near, and the day is past and gone, at the river I stand, guide my fee, hold my hand: (Refrain)

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer (in unison):**

“Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.” Amen.

**Sermon: “In Your Hometown” Pastor Candy Arnold**

**The Affirmation of our Stewardship**

**Offertory Jesus Shall Reign arr Callahan**

**\* Congregational Response Page 95**

**\* Prayer of Dedication (in unison):** Compassionate God, who sees beyond our boundaries and loves without limit, we bring these offerings with grateful hearts. Use them to proclaim your good news, heal the broken, and extend your love to all, especially those we struggle to accept. Transform our gifts

**into a beacon of hope and inclusion that reflects the boundless love of Christ in every corner of our community. In his holy name, we pray. Amen.**

### **The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**\*Hymn: O Jesus, I Have Promised Page 396**  
**O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end; be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend. I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side, nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.**

**O let me feel thee near me! The world is ever near: I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear; my foes are ever near me, around me and within; but Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end; O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.**

**O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still, above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self will. O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control; O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.**

**O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be. And Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end; O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.**

### **\*The Sending Forth and Benediction:**

**Postlude: Toccata by Hegarty**

**\*Those who are able please stand.**

**Welcome Families with young children!** St. Paul UMC values our children. We strive to teach each child who visits with us more about God and Jesus.

When you enter the Sanctuary or FLC for church, you will see a white rack in the back of the room. On this rack are "Fruits of the Spirit" cloth bags. Inside each bag is an activity book based on Biblical stories. There is also a small notebook, a pen, and a pack of crayons. Please feel free to borrow one of these Children's Activity bags for the duration of the church service.

When the service ends, we kindly ask you to return all of the materials to the cloth bag and hang the bag back on the white rack before you leave to go home. That way, the bags are there for all children to enjoy. Thank you

**The altar flowers are in loving memory of Bill Hull by Ann Hull.**  
**Serving in Worship Today**

**Greeter**

**Dave & Judy Bowers**

**Worship Leader**

**Barry Thomas**

**Head Usher**

**Verne Strickler**

During the service, the nursery is staffed and available for your children on the main floor Sharing room (A9).